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THE BROOKE FAMILY OF VIRGINIA.

(By Prof. ST. GEORGE TUCKER BROOKE, Morgantown, W. Va.)

(CONTINUED)

THE WILL OF ROBERT BROOKE, oldest son of Robert Brooke, Jr., the Knight of the Golden Horse Shoe. See this Magazine for April, 1902, p. 436.

January the 28th, Ann. Dom., One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Five, I Robert Brooke, gentleman, of the county of Essex, and Parish of St Ann's, seriously considering the uncertainty of human life, and being desirous of disposing of my worldly affairs, as justice and equity seem to direct, do, while in perfect health and memory, God be praised, make and ordain, this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, viz : (1)

First, I most humbly recommend my soul to the extensive mercy of that eternal supreme intelligent being who gave it me, hoping and assuredly believing, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Savior, to be made partaker of life everlasting ; and my body to the earth whereof that is made. Item, I give, devise and bequeathe to my son, Humphrey Booth Brooke (2) and his heirs forever, the capital messuage wherein I now live, and all other houses within the curtilage of the same, with one moiety of the tract of land whereon I now live, to be laid off in quantity and quality, so as the other moiety may partake of equal advantages and benefits with the same, and in case he should die before myself; I give, devise and bequeath the same to my son, Edmund Brooke, and his heirs forever. Item. I give, devise, and bequeath to my son, Edmund Brooke (3) and his heirs the reversion of the messuage, or tenement called by the name of Newfoundland, wherein Mrs. Lydia Bushrod Brooke (4) now lives, by virtue of a settlement of the same for her natural life, with the other moiety of the tract of land whereon I now live, to be laid off as aforesaid ; and if he should die before myself, to my son, Humphrey Booth Brooke, in such manner as the other moiety is above limited, to be, and remain to my son Edmund Brooke, and his heirs forever. I give, devise, and bequeath to each of my daughters, Mary (5), Catherine (6), Susannah (7), Sarah (8), and Elizabeth Brooke (9), after my debts and legacies are paid, an equal portion of my slaves, to be divided by commissioners, to be appointed by the Court or the Executors of my will. Item. I give and bequeath to my grand-daughter Anne Pettitt Brooke, a bracelet of three guineas value. Item. I give and bequeath the residue of my estate of every kind & nature whatsoever, to be equally divided between my sons Humphrey and Edmund Brooke, who I ordain and make my Executors. And do renounce and revoke all former wills, and publish this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand,

this day and year first above written by me. Interlined before publication.  
R. BROOKE.

Witness to the publishing hereof :

John Scrosby,  
Edward Voss (10).  
Edwards Matthews.  
Merriday Brown,  
John Matthews.

At a Court held for Essex County, at Tappahannock, on the 18th day of January 1790, this last will and testament of Robert Brooke, dec'd, being presented in Court by Humphrey Brooke and Edmund Brooke, the executors herein named, and was proved by Merriday Brown, one of the witnesses hereunto, and also by the oath of the said executors, and is ordered to be certified ; and a certificate is granted to the said Humphrey Brooke and Edmund Brooke, in order to their obtaining probate hereof in due form. Test : JOHN P. LEE.

And at a Court held for the said county at the place aforesaid on the 20th day of September 1790 this last will and testament of Robert Brooke deceased was further proved by the oath of Edwards Matthews, another of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Test : JOHN P. LEE, D. Clk.

A Copy, Test : A. SOUTHWORTH, Clerk.

#### NOTES TO THE FOREGOING WILL.

(1) His wife was Mary Fauntleroy, daughter of William Fauntleroy, of Richmond County. It is noteworthy that he does not mention her in his will although she certainly survived him.

(2) Humphrey Booth Brooke, like his father and grandfather, was a surveyor. His wife was Sally —. He and his family moved from Essex and nothing is known by this writer of this Lost Tribe of the House of Brooke.

(3) Edmund Brooke married Harriet Whiting.

(4) She was the widow of the testator's son, Robert Brooke IV.

(5) Mary married Major Daniel Duval, of the Revolutionary Army and of Nailors Hole, Essex ; issue Maria Brooke Duval, married William French, of North Carolina, issue James Strother French.

(6) Catherine, born Feb. 14th, 1762, died October 23rd, 1821, married Peter Francisco, b—?, died January 16th, 1831 (date of marriage unknown), of the Revolutionary army and of Buckingham County ; issue,

(1) Susan Brooke Francisco, married Col. Edward Pescud and (2) Catherine Brooke Francisco married Dandridge Spotswood, 3rd son of Capt. John Spotswood, of "Orange Grove," Orange County, Va., and of his wife Sally, daughter of Col. John Rowzie, of Essex.

(III) Peter Francisco, physician, never married.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)